

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 18, 1941

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, September 18, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,  
Mr. Lamb,  
Mr. Manship,  
Mr. Bruce,  
Dr. Cret,  
Mr. Holabird,  
Mr. Poor,  
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: The Minutes of the Meetings, held August 1, and September 2, 1941, were approved.
2. SENATE BILL 1817: Under date of September 16, 1941, a letter was received from Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, asking for a report on Senate Bill 1817 which he had introduced and which reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President be, and hereby is, given authority to purchase or otherwise obtain for such use as he may determine upon twenty-five acres of land, more or less, in Arlington County, Virginia, bounded on the south by the Arlington National Cemetery, on the north by Lee Boulevard, on the east by the Arlington Ridge Road, and on the west by North Meade Street.

Mr. Clarke stated that it is now proposed to erect an apartment building on the 25-acre tract as described in the bill and to do so would be to put a blot on the landscape of the Virginia hills and the shores of the Potomac since the building would be in direct line with the Mall axis.



The Commission noted the location of the land in question on a map and unanimously recommended the adoption of the bill with a view to having the tract in question made part of the Arlington National Cemetery. A report was sent to Senator Reynolds (Exhibit A) and likewise to the Director of the Budget (Exhibit A-1) and to Senator Francis Maloney, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. (Exhibit A-2)

3. EXTENSION OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: The secretary reported that at a Hearing before the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds on August 20, Chairman Clarke had stated that if the new War Department were built near Columbia Pike, then the Arlington Farms area should be made a part of the Arlington National Cemetery; and that members of the Committee had agreed that this should be done without delay so as to prevent another effort to erect a large building on the Arlington Farms site.

Since the new War Department Building is to be built adjacent to Columbia Pike in accordance with a contract let by the War Department, the secretary took up with the members of the Commission the question of extension of the National Cemetery to include the Arlington Farms site and drafted a bill. (Exhibit B) A copy of the bill was sent to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and to the National Park Service for their recommendations.

The Commission discussed the subject and agreed to the enactment of the legislation in question in order to give additional land to Arlington National Cemetery and to protect the Central Composition of the National Capital.

4. SCULPTURE FOR THE OSCAR STRAUS MEMORIAL: The Chairman reported that during the past month Mr. Weinman had submitted photographs of the enlarged model of the male sculptural group for the Oscar Straus Memorial for the advice of the Commission.



The photographs were inspected and were given particular attention by Mr. Manship. The Commission discussed the matter and felt it was particularly important to give consideration to the question of scale. The members were not at all pleased with the composition but thought the model was typical of Mr. Weinman's work. Mr. Manship submitted a report as follows:

"While approving the sculpture in principle for the two flanking pedestals of the fountain, the Commission of Fine Arts think that the groups would be improved considerably by reducing their size in relation to the pedestals. This seems true as viewed from the ends as well as from the front and back of the groups. The child in the male group seems to be too big; the composition would be more harmonious if that figure were smaller by at least the size of his head. Further, the figure of the man appears as if it were sunk into the base, and should be restudied."

The Commission felt that the architects were responsible for the proper completion of the group and Mr. Manship's report, which the Commission approved, was therefore sent to them with a copy to Mr. Weinman. (Exhibit C)

##### 5. DESIGN FOR THE NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

Mr. Edwin Bergstrom, Consulting Architect, for the new War Department Building, accompanied by his assistants, Messrs. Pierpont Davis, Robert D. Farquhar and David Witmer, submitted further drawings for the new War Department Building.

Mr. Bergstrom said his office had tried to embody the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts made at the meeting on September 2, for the erection of the building at the Quartermaster Depot site near Columbia Pike and that a contract to begin on the foundations of the building has been let by the War Department.

Mr. Bergstrom submitted a plan illustrating the scheme of circulation through the building, namely, five concentric corridors on the first floor that follow the perimeter of the building. Each side of the five-sided building is 920 feet long. There will be a large entrance for buses with separate ramps



to take the employees to the first, second and third floors by separate entrances. The building is to house 20,000 persons with possible extension to 30,000, if needed. The first story of the building will be at elevation 54. A part of the basement will not be underground due to the nature of the topography. There will be a separate entrance for trucks. Automobiles in general and taxicabs will come to the main entrance.

The Commission felt the plan for circulation through the building would be satisfactory but concurred in the suggestion by Dr. Cret that the central entrance corridor should be much wider so as to provide a broad concourse leading from the entrance to the central interior court.

The designs for the elevation were then discussed. Two schemes were submitted, both showing breaks in the long facade, which the Commission felt materially improved the appearance of the building. One of the schemes for the principal facade provided for a central pavilion higher than the remainder of the building. This, Mr. Bergstrom said, was designed to accommodate the suite of rooms for the Secretary of War who requires two large rooms 30 by 40 feet with a ceiling at least 11½ feet high. The Commission felt it would be better to omit this projection of the central motif if interior arrangements can be worked out satisfactorily.

Mr. Holabird recommended eliminating the parapet above the cornice on each side of the central element on all elevations. This was agreed to by the Commission. The main entrance will be that facing east toward Boundary Channel and will be for the Secretary of War and the General Staff. There will be a general official entrance with a plaza towards the northeast. At the base of the building the architect had indicated a terrace that would be 30 feet wide, under which there would be a driveway for taxicabs and buses. The Commission felt that this terrace should be eliminated. Mr. Bergstrom agreed and said





the matter would be given further study.

Mr. Bergstrom stated that each of the five sections of the building will comprise approximately 620,000 square feet of accessible space. The farthest any employee would have to walk would be about four blocks. It is proposed to begin building Section A (on the west side) then proceed with Section B northward and so on until the five sections are completed, which it is expected, will take about 14 months.

There was an inquiry as to material for the building. Mr. Bergstrom said it would be constructed of reinforced concrete with limestone facing. He said it has been found that limestone will be much more economical than cast stone which was first proposed. In general he said it would be a warehouse type of building and it is understood that after the emergency the War Department offices will be moved to the War Department Building in the Northwest Rectangle. However, this will always be a very useful building for files and storage purposes. He said all the partitions, excepting those along the main corridor, will be movable. Mr. Bergstrom was asked what is being done with the suggestion of the President to have one wing without windows and he replied that this was still being studied.

Thereupon Chairman Clarke asked Mr. Lamb to state in behalf of the architect members, the conclusions reached with reference to the designs, which he did as follows:

1. The Commission feels that the scheme of circulation through the building is satisfactory, but suggest that the central entrance corridor should be made much wider so as to provide a broad concourse leading from the entrance to the central interior court.
2. The Commission prefers that the central motive on the elevation which includes the suite for the Secretary of War not be raised, provided that the interior arrangements can be worked out satisfactorily.
3. It is suggested that the parapet could be eliminated above the cornice each side of the central elements on all elevations.



4. The end motives which are not entrances could be omitted keeping the breaks in the facade as shown.
5. The terrace at the base on the side where taxicabs and buses enter the building should be eliminated, if possible; it is understood that further study will be given this problem.

Mr. Bergstrom felt that these recommendations would be very helpful to him in the further study of the design. The Commission thereupon unanimously gave preliminary approval to the plans and concurred in the recommendations of the architect members as above stated. These were embodied in a report sent to General Somervell, a copy of which was also sent to Mr. Bergstrom. (Exhibit D)

Mr. Bergstrom said that he would like to resubmit the completed plans before proceeding with the working drawings and Chairman Clarke stated in behalf of the Commission that the Commission would be glad to have him do so and arrangements would be made for a meeting as soon as the final designs are completed.

Mr. Manship asked whether consideration has been given to embellishments for the building. Mr. Bergstrom replied that some attention has been given to landscape development but nothing has been done in the matter of sculpture or painting although he thought in time this would be considered.

6. PAINTING FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Mr. Bruce submitted the following letter with reference to a painting by Ben Shahn for the Social Security Building:

September 17, 1941.

Gentlemen:

Mr. Ben Shahn who was awarded the commission to do the designs for the Social Security Building which were approved at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on July 1, 1941 has revised his designs and executed the linear full size drawings on the wall spaces allotted for it in the Social Security Building.



The Section of Fine Arts had a meeting today with the members of the Social Security Board at which an extended discussion of Mr. Shahn's designs was had and at which we had the privilege of a careful study of these designs with Mr. Poor, the painting expert of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Social Security Board feels that with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts that Mr. Shahn be requested to work out the first of the mural designs as shown on the West wall of the corridor. The Board expressed the desire that after they had had an opportunity to see this panel which was entirely satisfactory to them that they have a further opportunity to consider and study the details of Mr. Shahn's full size cartoon and I understand that Mr. Poor is of the same opinion although I will ask the Social Security Board to ask Mr. Poor to submit a report.

Mr. Poor will present the color designs of Mr. Shahn.

The Section feels that Mr. Shahn's full size drawings on the wall with the color designs which he has submitted justify the Commission of Fine Arts in approving the designs and authorizing Mr. Shahn to proceed.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Edward Bruce,  
Chief of the Section of Fine Arts

Mr. Poor said he saw the painting yesterday and he was satisfied as to the scale and felt Mr. Shahn would do a good job. Mr. Poor submitted a brief report as follows:

"Mr. Shahn's full size drawings on the walls, supported by the color sketches and the separate detail studies, completely satisfy the painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts that the work should go forward as planned."

The Commission concurred in the report, which was transmitted to Mr. Bruce.

(Exhibit E)

7. PAINTINGS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Under date of September 17th the following letter was received from the Section of Fine Arts with reference to the paintings for the cafeteria in the Social Security Building:



Dear Mr. Clarke:

Reference is made to a national competition for the decoration of the Cafeteria, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C.

The competition terminated September 1 and the seventy series of murals were judged on September 9 and 10 by Mr. William Palmer, Mr. Louis Bouche, and Mr. Carlos Lopez.

The jury was unanimous in selecting designs as the winners which proved to be the work of Mr. Jerome Snyder and Miss Gertrude Goodrich. These designs are submitted herewith for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts together with a copy of the jury's report on the winning designs.

Thanking you for a report, I am

Cordially yours,  
(Signed) Edward B. Rowan,  
Assistant Chief, Section of Fine Arts

The Commission were well pleased with the designs. Mr. Poor was asked to examine them and report. Mr. Poor reported as follows:

"There is a tendency to make the profile caricatures shown in the designs too much to a regular pattern, and to go into caricature unnecessarily. It is suggested that the scale of the 'wrestlers' panel be reduced to harmonize better with the others."

The Commission concurred in the report which Mr. Poor had made and it was sent to the Section of Fine Arts. (Exhibit F)

8. DESIGN FOR WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN THE NORTHWEST RECTANGLE: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, accompanied by Mr. Dewey Foster, submitted drawings for the rest of the War Department Building in the Northwest Rectangle.

Mr. Simon said he had received authority from Congress to make the drawings and the Chairman stated that the President would like to see the building for the Northwest Rectangle completed during his Administration. Mr. Simon said the rest of the building as shown, which is to extend westward to 23rd Street, is three and one-half times as large as the first unit along 21st Street. The entire building will provide for 1,250,000 square feet of office space.





It will be six to seven stories high. In general it conforms in style to the architecture of the first unit.

The Commission preferred a portico treatment for the Constitution Avenue side to a scheme showing wings. This is to be given further study with a view to carrying the walls across the portico so as to provide a more adequate background. It was suggested that the open courts on each side of the E Street entrance be closed thus simplifying the central part of the north elevation. In general the Commission were pleased with these preliminary designs and Mr. Simon said they would be given further study with a view to adopting the recommendations of the Commission.

The Commission expressed the hope that the buildings in the Northwest Rectangle could be built in the near future. A report was sent to Mr. Simon.

(Exhibit G)

9. G. A. R. TABLET: Mr. Francis Sullivan, architect, submitted a design for a Grand Army of the Republic Tablet authorized for placement in the Arlington Amphitheatre. This was inspected and after conference with Mr. Sullivan, the Commission approved it. This is to be a vertical tablet approximately 36 by 30 inches in size and of Vermont marble. It was noted that the tablet is to be placed on the wall opposite the east entrance to the Amphitheater. A telegram was sent to the Chairman of the Committee representing the Ladies of the G. A. R. having the matter in charge. (Exhibit H; see also H-1)

10. MUSEUM ROOMS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: The Chairman reported that at a recent visit to the White House, President Roosevelt had recommended a series of rooms in which could be placed objects of historical interest commemorating the administrations of the Presidents of the United States. He thought a room



each for Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln would be of real interest. Mr. Clarke said the President had stated that he could find nothing in the White House of the Coolidge Administration but that he proposes to leave several things at the end of his Administration.

The Commission expressed doubt whether an additional wing east of the White House could be built without disfiguring the general appearance of the White House composition. However, attention was called to the present inadequate arrangement of the east terrace with its corridors for receiving visitors.

The Commission took the matter under advisement.

11. DESIGN FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS, WAR DEPARTMENT:

The following letter was received from the Secretary of War submitting a design for the National Defence and Good Conduct Medals:

September 17, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

In accordance with the terms of Executive Order No. 3524 of July 28, 1921, I am sending you, by special messenger, the designs for the American Defense Medal and the Good Conduct Medal which have been submitted by sculptors and medalists recommended by your commission.

As you know, authorization for the American Defense Medal was announced in Executive Order No. 8308 signed June 28, 1941, and announcement made of the establishment of the Good Conduct Medal in Executive Order No. 8809 of the same date.

I would appreciate it very much if you will furnish me, at your earliest convenience, the advice of the commission as to the merits of the designs as contemplated under Executive Order No. 3524.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Henry L. Stimson,  
Secretary of War.

Mr. Manship said he had inspected the designs the day before and was prepared to give his recommendations. The Commission examined the designs. It



was noted that they were for the most part from sculptors of ability although the sketches seemed to be rather conventional and lacking in ideas.

Mr. Manship recommended Design No. 4 by Lee Lawrie for the National Defense Medal. This shows on the obverse a figure of Victory with symbolism representing various branches of the War Department. For the reverse there would be an appropriate inscription. It was noted that the design was made by Lee Lawrie and it was admitted that he would make a good model for the medal.

For the Good Conduct Medal Mr. Manship recommended Design No. 5 by Joseph Kiselewski. It showed a bock superimposed by an eagle resting on a sword for the obverse and a star with place for an inscription for the reverse.

The Commission concurred in the recommendations of Mr. Manship and recommended to the War Department that Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Kiselewski be given the awards with the understanding that models of the respective designs be submitted. A report was sent to the Secretary of War. (Exhibit I)

12. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR SCOTT CIRCLE: Mr. Donald L. Kline submitted in behalf of the National Park Service a landscape plan for Scott Circle. This was inspected by Mr. Clarke and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it. (Exhibit J)

13. WATER TOWER FOR FORT DUPONT: Mr. Kline submitted a design for a water tower proposed for erection by the District Commissioners at Fort Dupont in East Washington. Mr. Kline presented to the Commission a letter on the subject as follows:

September 5, 1941.

Mr. Irving C. Root, Superintendent  
National Park Service  
New Interior Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:



In a letter dated July 26, 1935, the Engineer Commissioner advised your office of the desirability of erecting a 500,000 gallon elevated water tank for the District of Columbia Water Division in Fort Dupont Park.

After some correspondence and discussion, in the course of which it was brought out that the Federal authorities desired a type of construction entailing costs beyond the amount of funds available, your office wrote the Engineer Commissioner on February 25, 1936 that the Commission of Fine Arts objected to the erection of an "unadorned metallic tower which would be a detriment rather than an ornament to the region." In view of that impasse, the need of the water system in this respect was temporarily met by replacing, with a larger size, the small tank in the grounds of the Stanton School. It was then expected that this replacement would provide capacity to meet the demand for a period of about 10 years.

Recent developments brought about largely by the construction of Defense housing in the Anacostia section, and by the rapid development of private property in that section induced by provision of sewers in the Oxon Run Valley, have made it obvious that steps must be taken in the near future to greatly augment the water facilities supplying the area.

Careful study of the problem has resulted in the conclusion that an elevated tank of two million gallons capacity in the vicinity of Massachusetts and Alabama Avenues, S. E., is urgently required. As was brought out in the previous correspondence, the site best adapted to this improvement is in the Fort Dupont Reservation, and the purpose of this communication is to again request the necessary permission of your office.

I wish, particularly, to bring to your attention that, while District water funds cannot be expected to be found available in amount sufficient to construct a masonry-enclosed structure as originally suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts, yet the concerns supplying steel water tanks have accomplished a great deal toward improving the esthetic quality of their product in the interim since this matter was discussed. In substantiation of that statement, there is enclosed a photo-print of a drawing submitted by one of the tank manufacturers to illustrate a type of structure which that concern is prepared to supply. The original of this drawing, in colors, is now available in the Water Division and the same manufacturer has at least one other similar drawing showing another pleasing design, which drawing is obtainable if it would be of interest.

It is submitted that a tank of this or similar design which could be provided within the Water Division's resources, would con-





stitute no detriment to the region. The proposed tank would have a flow line elevation of 382 D. C. Datum with resulting height of approximately 37 feet from the approved grade of Alabama Avenue to flow line. Three blueprints of a plate showing the proposed site are enclosed.

C. J. Kutz, Engineer Commissioner, D.C.

The Commission called attention to the fact that this project to erect a water tower at Fort Dupont had been disapproved by the Commission fully five years ago, when the Commission reported to the National Park Service on February 10, 1936, in part as follows:

"Referring to the memorandum of January 30, inclosing a photograph of a proposed water tower for Fort Dupont the Commission of Fine Arts advise you that the erection of a water tower such as is proposed would be a serious blot on the landscape of the Anacostia region. As you very well know, the purchase by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission of extensive lands for park purposes and parkways in the Anacostia section is certain to make that region one of the most beautiful portions of the District of Columbia. Nature has done its part abundantly."

The Commission reaffirmed its disapproval in this matter and the National Park Service was informed accordingly. (Exhibit K) (A copy of the letter was sent to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which Commission recently studied the scheme and recommended that the water tower be erected eastward over the brow of the hill with the understanding that some necessary land needed for it would be bought by the District Commissioners.)

14. SCULPTURE FOR THE PEDIMENT OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: The secretary brought to the attention of the Commission a print of a model for sculpture in the pediment of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. This print appeared in the Washington Star, September 13, 1941. The sculpture depicts Jefferson and his Committee drafting the Declaration of Independence. The model was made by Mr. Weinman and it was noted that it is being carved at the memorial.



The Commission questioned the adequacy of the composition and requested the architects, Eggers and Higgins, for a photograph of the model and information concerning the project. (Exhibit L)

15. PAVEMENT FOR THE SHERMAN EQUESTRIAN STATUE: The Chairman called attention to a letter received from Mr. F. F. Gillen, Acting Superintendent of the Office of National Capital Parks, concerning a pavement for the Sherman Statue near the Treasury Department Building, as follows:

August 30, 1941

My dear Mr. Clarke:

The mosaic walk around the Sherman Statue, located in Sherman Square at 15th and E Streets, N. W. has disintegrated badly and is unsightly and dangerous to the public. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$2,000 to repair the defective spots.

Due to the existing condition, repairs must be made soon and information is requested as to the views of the Commission of Fine Arts relative to replacing all of the mosaic walk with a concrete surface.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) F. F. Gillen.

The Chairman said he and Mr. Manship visited the monument and that Mr. Manship had recommended that the pavement around the statue be replaced by granite. This was agreed to by the Commission and a report was sent to the Office of National Capital Parks accordingly. (Exhibit M)

16. ADDITIONAL TRAIN SHEDS AND TRACKS FOR UNION STATION: Mr. B. R. Tolson, General Manager of the Washington Terminal Company, submitted a letter with design as follows:

September 18th, 1941.

Gentlemen:

A Bill is being placed before the Congress to amend "An Act to provide for a Union Railroad Station in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved February 28, 1903 (Public Numbered 122, 32 Stat. 909).



In connection with the said proposed Bill we advise as follows:

(1) The purpose of the bill is to extend the present boundary in said Act, approved February 28th, 1903, to include certain additional property on the east side of Union Station Building outlined in yellow on attached plan.

(2) On said land it is proposed to construct additional facilities to be used for handling U. S. Mails. Such additional facilities, including trackage, platforms and shelters, etc. at Washington Terminal are necessary for handling U. S. Mails, which we believe to be a vital element in the National Defense.

(3) This subject has been under consideration between the Terminal Company and the various Railroads using Terminal facilities, as also with the officials of the Post Office Department. They are unanimous in the conclusion that the proposed facilities are necessary and vital to the proper and expeditious handling of U. S. Mails at the Washington Terminal.

(4) The Terminal will provide the proposed facilities at an expense of nearly half a million dollars. There will be no expense to the Government. If the relief sought is to be realized this job must be ready for service December 1st, 1941.

Pursuant to requirements of law, this matter is being submitted to your honorable Commission for review and conclusion. I enlist your earnest consideration and request that disposition be expedited as much as possible and that in view of the public interest involved and the necessity for energetic handling of plans and construction we may receive at an early date notice of your approval of this project.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) B. R. Tolson,  
Manager.

Mr. Tolson, accompanied by several assistants, discussed the matter with the Commission. The location of the train sheds east of Union Station was noted and the design was inspected by the architect members of the Commission, who recommended certain changes. The Commission recognized the need for additional tracks and train sheds and approved the scheme. A report was sent to Mr. Tolson accordingly. (Exhibit N)

17. SCULPTURE FOR THE MAP DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN THE NORTHWEST RECTANGLE:

Mr. Bruce reported that yesterday, September 17th, the jury had inspected the



revised models for the sculptural groups to flank the first unit of the War Department Building and had submitted a report as follows:

The jury, consisting of Carl Milles, Edgar Miller, William Zorach, William Dewey Foster and Gilbert Stanley Underwood, met on Wednesday, September 17, 1941 to review the revised 1" scale models and quarter-size enlargements by Earl N. Thorp, Salvatore Ferruggia and Leo Steppat, for the War Department Building sculptures, flanking East entrance of building.

The jury unanimously recommended Thorp's models for the award because in addition to showing sculpture competence they were considered the best solution for the architecture. The jury generally preferred the spirit and character shown in Thorp's first models. The architects will furnish a drawing giving the exact size to be followed for the base as the jury feels there should be a slight reduction in size of the sculpture from the models submitted.

The jury recommends that the models be made in full size and that they should have the quality of stone and not of clay.

The group submitted by Mr. Steppat was admired for its design. The sculptures were still thought to be not suitable for stone.

The quarter-size model of Mr. Ferruggia did not fulfill the promise of the original model offered in the competition.

It is the recommendation of the jury that Mr. Zorach, who lives in the locality, should talk with the winning sculptor and watch the progress of the work in its various stages and advise with the Section of Fine Arts as to the progress of the work.

Carl Milles  
Edgar Miller  
William Zorach  
William Dewey Foster  
Gilbert Stanley Underwood

At the request of Mr. Bruce the Commission visited the Section of Fine Arts in the afternoon and inspected the models. Mr. Manship raised a question as to their scale with relation to the building and the Commission agreed that this should be given further consideration with the help of full-sized solar prints to be erected in place. Mr. Manship also raised the question whether Earl Thorp is competent to carry out the commission upon receipt of the award. The





Commission felt that Mr. Thorp had not materially improved the models over the first studies and expressed the hope that they could be improved in the future progress of the work. Mr. Bruce thereupon stated that he would submit the models formally to the Commission of Fine Arts for their advice and report. (Exhibit C) The Commission stated they would be given particular attention at the next meeting when the full-sized solar prints would be inspected.

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p. m. to meet in Washington sometime during the next two weeks or so when Mr. Bergstrom said he would have final drawings for the War Department Building ready for submission.



C O P Y

September 18, 1941.

Dear Senator Reynolds:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today considered Senate Bill 1817, "To Authorize the President to purchase certain lands in Arlington County, Virginia," copy of which you transmitted with your letter of September 16th for report. The Commission strongly recommend the enactment of S. 1817, which was introduced by you.

In the judgment of the Commission of Fine Arts it would be most unfortunate to leave this tract of land in private ownership, since it is located directly across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial, on the axis of the Mall. The Virginia shores of the Potomac as viewed from points on the opposite side within the area of the Central Composition of the National Capital should be park like in character to act as a background of green for the great monuments of the Capital.

The view west along Constitution Avenue terminates within the property in question and it would therefore be exceedingly unfortunate to have large apartment buildings erected upon this site as is now proposed, thus placing them in the terminus of the view westerly along the Mall and within view from Constitution Avenue.

This area of land between the Lee Boulevard and the Arlington National Cemetery should be purchased first, as a means for later expansion of the Cemetery, and to protect forever the foreground of the Central Composition of the National Capital.

The Commission of Fine Arts are most grateful to you for introducing this legislation and sincerely trust that it will be enacted by the Congress.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Robert R. Reynolds, Chairman,  
Committee on Military Affairs,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A



C O P Y

September 18, 1941.

My dear Director Smith:

Attached to this letter you will find a communication which I received from Senator Reynolds, together with a copy of my reply.

When the Commission of Fine Arts learned of the proposal of certain private interests to erect an apartment house on the parcel of land described in Senate Bill 1817, they were very much exercised for reasons that are obvious and which I have briefly outlined in my communication to the Senator, who introduced this bill.

For a number of years past we have been emphasizing the importance of acquiring all the lands in Virginia lying between the north border of Arlington Cemetery and the Lee Boulevard if for no other purpose than to protect the background of the view of the central Mall composition. It is doubtful if the War Department is much interested in the purchase of this land for the extension of the Arlington Cemetery inasmuch as the lands of the Agricultural Farm may be made available in the future. Nevertheless, it seems to the Commission of Fine Arts that in any program of purchase of lands in Arlington County that this area on the extension of the Mall should be acquired to prevent exploitation by private interests. I am sure that everyone would look with profound regret upon the erection of a 11-story apartment house building which has been proposed, on this parcel of land. I therefore, wish to stress the importance of the acquisition of this parcel in order to protect the view from the Washington shore of the Potomac looking toward Virginia and I hope that funds may be found with which to make this purchase at this time.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Mr. Harold D. Smith,  
Director,  
Bureau of the Budget,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A-1



C C P Y

September 18, 1941.

My dear Senator Maloney:

Attached you will find copies of correspondence in support of Senate Bill 1817 "To Authorize the President to purchase certain lands in Arlington County, Virginia". My letter to Senator Reynolds and Budget Director Smith emphasize the importance of the acquisition of certain lands described in the bill.

I might add that the Commission of Fine Arts has for many years looked with favor upon the purchase of all the land lying between the north boundary of the Arlington Cemetery and the Lee Boulevard as a protection for the view looking west from the Washington shores of the Potomac. I trust that your committee will look with favor upon this bill.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Francis Maloney,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A-2





S. J. S.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY TO INCLUDE THE AREA KNOWN AS THE ARLINGTON FARM SITE.

WHEREAS, The Area known as the Arlington Farm site was originally a part of the Arlington Estate, and

WHEREAS, The McMillan Park Commission in its report on the Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia (Senate Report No. 113, 56th Congress, 1st Session) recommended for the treatment of Arlington National Cemetery that the Arlington Farm area be considered a foreground to the cemetery that should be "rigorously protected"; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of War approved a map (Drawing No. 260-143, July, 1924), which was prepared with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, proposing the extension of Arlington National Cemetery to include the Arlington Farm site, which also meets with the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and

WHEREAS, The Arlington Farm site is on the main axis of the Central Composition of the National Capital, and, to protect the Plan of Washington should be kept free from permanent buildings; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONJUNCTION ASSEMBLED, That the area known as the Arlington Farm site, bounded on the north by the Lee Boulevard; on the south by the present line of the Arlington Reservation; on the east by the line of a proposed approach road to the Arlington Memorial Bridge (54 Stat. p.1220, approved November 29, 1941), on the northeast by the line of a proposed truck road to Rosslyn, Virginia; and on the west by the Arlington Ridge Road, be and is hereby made a part of the Arlington National Cemetery, effective from the date of approval of this Act.



C O P Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18th, considered the photographs of revised models for sculpture by A. A. Weinman for the Oscar Straus Memorial.

While approving the sculpture in principle for the two flanking pedestals of the fountain, the Commission of Fine Arts think that the groups would be improved considerably by reducing their size in relation to the pedestals. This seems true as viewed from the ends as well as from the front and back of the groups. The child in the male group seems to be too big; the composition would be more harmonious if that figure were smaller by at least the size of his head. Further, the figure of the man appears as if it were sunk into the base, and should be restudied.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Messrs. Eggers & Higgins, Architects  
542 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C



UNITED STATES SENATE

September 16, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I send you herewith a copy of S. 1817, to authorize the President to purchase certain lands in Arlington County, Virginia.

Please furnish, for the use of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, the views of the Commission of Fine Arts on this proposed legislation.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. REYNOLDS

Chairman.

Hon. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,  
Commission of Fine Arts,  
Interior Department Building,  
Room 7000,  
Washington, D. C.



C O P Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear General Somervell:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18th, were pleased to consider the progress plans submitted in your behalf by Mr. Edwin Bergstrom, Consulting Architect for the War Department Building in Arlington County, Virginia. The Commission gave preliminary approval to the plans.

Certain suggestions were made to Mr. Bergstrom, which he said will be helpful in his further study of these plans:

1. The Commission feels that the scheme of circulation through the building is satisfactory, but suggest that the central entrance corridor should be made much wider so as to provide a broad concourse leading from the entrance to the central interior court.
2. The Commission prefers that the central motive on the elevation which includes the suite for the Secretary of War not be raised, provided that the interior arrangements can be worked out satisfactorily.
3. It is suggested that the parapet could be eliminated above the cornice each side of the central elements on all elevations.
4. The end motives which are not entrances could be omitted keeping the breaks in the facade as shown.
5. The terrace at the base on the side where taxicabs and buses enter the building should be eliminated, if possible; it is understood that further study will be given this problem.

Mr. Bergstrom said he would like to submit designs before proceeding with the working drawings, and the Commission assured him they would give prompt attention to the next submission whenever he is ready.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Brig. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell,  
Chief,  
Construction Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D





C O P Y

September 22, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

Your letter of September 17th concerning the mural paintings by Ben Shahn for the Social Security Building received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on September 18th. The matter was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission, who reports as follows:

Mr. Shahn's full size drawings on the walls, supported by the color sketches and the separate detail studies, completely satisfy the painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts that the work should go forward as planned.

The Commission of Fine Arts concur in the report by Mr. Poor.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,  
Section of Fine Arts,  
Public Buildings Administration,  
Federal Works Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E



C O P Y

September 25, 1941.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18, 1941, considered the designs (No. 58) which you submitted for mural paintings in the Cafeteria of the Social Security Building.

The Commission were highly pleased with the designs and concur in the report of the Jury concerning them, subject to certain additional suggestions by Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Poor reports: "There is a tendency to make the profile caricatures shown in the designs too much to a regular pattern, and to go into caricature unnecessarily. It is suggested that the scale of the 'Wrestlers' panel be reduced to harmonize better with the others."

With these suggestions the sketches are enthusiastically approved.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan,  
Assistant Chief,  
Section of Fine Arts,  
Public Buildings Administration,  
Federal Works Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F



C O P Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18th, approved the preliminary designs which you submitted for the remainder of the War Department Building in the Northwest Rectangle with the suggestion that the portico treatment for the Constitution Avenue side is preferable to the second study you submitted.

It is further understood that you are going to restudy this elevation, carrying the walls across above the portico to provide a more adequate background for it.

It was also suggested that the open courts each side of the "E" Street entrance be closed, thus simplifying this central part of the north elevation.

The Commission expressed the hope that the plans for the Northwest Rectangle may be brought to completion in the near future.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon  
Supervising Architect  
Public Buildings Administration  
Federal Works Agency  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G



C O P Y

September 12, 1941.

Western Union

Mrs. Margaret Hopkins Worrell,  
National Legislative Chairman,  
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,  
Hotel Fort Hayes,  
Columbus, Ohio.

Commission of Fine Arts at meeting today approved design  
for marble tablet in Arlington Amphitheater with understanding  
that project will be supervised by Mr. Sullivan and subject to  
approval of the Arlington Amphitheater Commission.

H. P. Caenmerer,  
Secretary.

EXHIBIT H





C O P Y

Columbus, Ohio,  
September 19, 1941.

H. P. CAEMMERER, SECRETARY  
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,  
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION PLACING MEMORIAL TABLET IN ARLINGTON MEMORIAL  
AMPHITHEATRE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TELEGRAM RECEIVED WAS  
UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED. PLEASE THANK THE COMMISSION AND  
CONVEY OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO MR. SULLIVAN.

MARGARET HOPKINS WYRRELL.

EXHIBIT H-1



Copy  
The Commission of Fine Arts  
Washington, D. C.

September 22, 1941

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on September 18, 1941, considered the designs for the American Defense Medal and the Good Conduct Medal, which were received in response to a competition conducted by the War Department, and submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice with your letter of September 17.

The designs were referred to Mr. Paulanship, sculptor member of the Commission, who reported as follows:

American Defense Medal. Design No. 4, submitted by Mr. Lee Lawrie, is recommended.

Good Conduct Medal. Design No. 5, submitted by Mr. Joseph Kiselewski is recommended.

The Commission approve the report by Mr. Paulanship and recommend that the awards be made to the artists of the respective designs for these medals, subject to the submission of a model for the obverse and reverse of each medal.

The Commission have no hesitation in recommending the two artists whose models have been selected since both are thoroughly competent medalists. Mr. Lawrie was a former member of this Commission.

It is understood that the War Department will recommend an appropriate inscription for each one of these medals which may be embodied by the artists in their models.

All the designs submitted are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,  
Secretary of War,  
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit I



C O P Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18th, approved a planting plan for Scott Circle, submitted in your behalf by Mr. Donald L. Kline, landscape architect, of your office.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J



C O P Y

September 17, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on September 18th, considered a design submitted in your behalf by Mr. Donald L. Kline, landscape architect of your office, for a water tower at Fort Dupont. The Commission strongly disapproved the scheme. The Commission called attention to a letter on the subject, addressed to your office on February 10, 1936, which stated in part, as follows:

"Referring to the memorandum of January 30, inclosing a photograph of a proposed water tower for Fort Dupont the Commission of Fine Arts advise you that the erection of a water tower such as is proposed would be a serious blot on the landscape of the Anacostia region. As you very well know, the purchase by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission of extensive lands for park purposes and parkways in the Anacostia section is certain to make that region one of the most beautiful portions of the District of Columbia. Nature has done its part abundantly."

The Commission suggest that consideration be given to reservoir facilities. However, if it becomes necessary to erect a water tower at Fort Dupont, one should be designed that will be an ornament rather than a detriment to the region.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K





C O P Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

Recently the Commission of Fine Arts noted in the Press a print of a model for sculpture in the pediment of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The Commission would appreciate a photograph of the model with full information concerning this sculpture. The Commission have not seen the model and question its adequacy for the location.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Messrs. Eggers & Higgins,  
Architects,  
542 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT L



C O P Y

September 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Gillen:

I have received a letter from Mr. Manship, sculptor member of the Commission, concerning the mosaic pavement around the Sherman Statue and I quote from it:

"It is unfortunate that mosaic pavement will not stand the rigors of the Washington climate. Probably, as you suggest, it would be wiser to use a permanent material, and I should like to recommend that the pavement around the Sherman statue be replaced with granite. This should be laid out in harmonious pattern, perhaps with the use of stone of different colors."

I trust that this recommendation may be carried out. Mr. Manship and I inspected the monument yesterday and we concur in the view that it would be most unfortunate indeed to lay a concrete pavement on the lower terrace of the monument to replace the disintegrating mosaic.

In connection with the laying of a thin granite pavement we believe that the names of the places and battles of the Civil War should be cut, incised letters in the granite, Roman in character, and of approximately the same size as the lettering in the mosaic.

Such a treatment will provide a permanent pavement and while the original cost will be greater than concrete it will, no doubt, last very much longer and certainly be eminently more satisfactory.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Mr. F. F. Gillen,  
Director,  
National Capital Parks,  
Interior Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M



C C F Y

September 19, 1941.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the scheme you submitted for a train shed and additional tracks on the east side of Union Station, to meet National Defense needs. A few suggestions were made with a view to simplifying the elevations, which it is understood will be embodied in the final drawings.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,  
Chairman.

Mr. B. R. Tolson, Manager,  
The Washington Terminal Company,  
Union Station,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N



FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

September 20, 1941

Mr. Gilmore Clarke, Chairman  
Commission of Fine Arts  
Department of Interior Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Submitted herewith for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts are photographs of the two one inch scale models by Earl H. Thorp of Danbury, Connecticut, chosen by a jury consisting of Carl Milles, Edgar Miller and Willian Zorach, sculptors and William Dewey Foster and Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architects of the building, from the second stage of the national competition conducted by the Section of Fine Arts for the two sculptures flanking the east entrance of the War Department Building, Washington, D. C. I enclose a copy of the report of the jury also.

Photographic enlargements of the two models are being prepared to be tried in place on the plinths at the building for review by the Commission at their next meeting.

Sincerely yours,

EMMA S. RICE

Chief of the Section of Fine Arts

Exhibit C





REPORT OF JURY

The jury, consisting of Carl Lilles, Edgar Miller, William Zorach, William Dewey Foster and Gilbert Stanley Underwood, met on Wednesday, September 17, 1941 to review the revised 1" scale models and quarter-size enlargements by Earl H. Thorp, Salvatore Ferruggia and Leo Steppat, for the War Department building sculptures, flanking East entrance of building.

The jury unanimously recommended Thorp's models for the award because in addition to showing sculpture competence they were considered the best solution for the architecture. The jury generally preferred the spirit and character shown in Thorp's first models. The architects will furnish a drawing giving the exact size to be followed for the base as the jury feels there should be a slight reduction in size of the sculpture from the models submitted.

The jury recommends that the models be made in full size and that they should have the quality of stone and not of clay.

The group submitted by Mr. Steppat was admired for its design. The sculptures were still thought to be not suitable for stone.

The quarter-size model of Mr. Ferruggia did not fulfill the promise of the original model offered in the competition.

It is the recommendation of the jury that Mr. Zorach, who lives in the locality, should talk with the winning sculptor and watch the progress of the work in its various stages and advise with the Section of Fine Arts as to the progress of the work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carl Lilles

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edgar Miller

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Zorach

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Dewey Foster

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gilbert Stanley Underwood



FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION  
SECTION OF FINE ARTS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD  
Saturday, September 20, 1911

Two sculptures by Carl I. Thorp of Danbury, Connecticut, have been chosen by a distinguished jury of sculptors to mark the Twenty-first Street Entrance of the new War Department building recently completed at the first unit of the "Northwest Rectangular Development." Edward Bruce, Chief of the Section of Fine Art, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency, announced today that the models by Mr. Thorp, with the report of the jury, have been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for their comment and advice as is customary with all decorations for Federal buildings in the District of Columbia. The Commission of Fine Arts has the matter under advisement.

The jury consisting of Mr. Carl Milles, Mr. Sigis Miller and Mr. William Zorach, sculptors, and Mr. William Grey Luster and Mr. Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architects of the building, reached their decision after study of developed models by three sculptors selected by this jury from an anonymous sculpture competition, open to all American sculptors, conducted last winter by the Section of Fine Arts.

The three sculptors who competed in the second stage of the competition were in addition to the winner, Mr. Thorp, Mr. Salvatore Ferrugia of New York City and Mr. Leo Steppat of Washington, D. C. While the jury admired the design of the two sculptures by Mr. Steppat, they commented in their report that "the jury unanimously recommended Mr. Thorp's models for the award because in addition to showing sculptural competence, they were considered the best solution for the architecture."



Mr. Thorp's two sculptures employ classic symbolism, represented by a nude male figure, War, and by a classically draped female figure, Peace. The two figures are conceived in a heroic scale to fill the great block of stone twenty feet long by six feet deep by thirteen feet high. The figures are composed in a reclining position. Standing beside each figure in a smaller scale are symbolic figures intended by the sculptor to represent the Army and aviation.

The two sculptures are the largest of a scheme of sculptures planned by the architects for the decoration of the exterior of the building which are now being carried out under the supervision of the Section of Fine Arts.

Earl Thorp was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, February 10, 1890 and studied at the Beaux Arts in New York City, the Yale School of Fine Arts and he has worked with Lee Larrie, Leo Friedlander and Benjamin Tawkins. His most monumental sculpture to date is the great Parados, fifty-three feet high, in the Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York City.

